

Nursery reminders

Glenn Salsbury, Entomologist

Spring is a busy time in the nursery business. It also is the time of the year when most pest problems are moved from one area of the country to another, so nurseries need to be watchful for any unusual pests they might notice. The top pests to watch for in Kansas are the red imported fire ant and gypsy moth.

Plants coming from a fire ant quarantine area must have paperwork showing that the shipment meets USDA treatment requirements. Please keep this paperwork where it can be easily found so the plants can be traced to the shipping nursery if there is a problem.

Fire ants are a concern because they can survive in Kansas and are easily moved in nursery stock. The queens may be in the growing media with a few workers and may not emerge for some time. If the plants are sold to unsuspecting homeowners, the fire ants may go undetected until someone is stung. This past year, a nurseryman alerted us to a fire ant problem in nursery stock and we were able to eliminate the colony before it had a chance to spread.



Red Imported Fire Ant



Gypsy Moth Egg Mass

In the past, most problems with gypsy moth have been with spruce coming from infested areas. There are no known established populations of gypsy moths in

Kansas. The Kansas Department of Agriculture often sets traps in nurseries from late May until August to detect any possible gypsy moths. Traps are also set at high-use reservoirs. Some other sites are trapped by USDA personnel.



Gypsy Moth Delta Trap



Japanese Beetle

Japanese beetles continue to be a problem for Kansas nurseries that want to export. Colorado now has a quarantine in place requiring that stock from infested states meet the new Colorado standards. Exporters to other states must meet the importing states' requirements. Most requirements can be found in the Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan. The plan can be obtained by contacting your area specialist or the Plant Protection and Weed Control program at (785) 862-2180.

If you think there may be a problem, please give us a call so we can send someone out to assess the situation.

Colorado quarantine against Japanese beetle

**Bill Scott, Program Manager
(Retired March 5, 2010)**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's Division of Plant Industry enacted a quarantine against Japanese beetle effective January 1, 2010. Kansas, being listed as a category 2 state in the U.S. Domestic Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan, is included as an infested

state in the quarantine. Most plant materials imported into Colorado must be accompanied by an official certification/documentation stating: the plants were grown in an area free of Japanese beetle based on negative trapping data; or the plants were grown in a nursery officially accredited to be free of Japanese beetle; or the plants were treated with approved insecticides. Colorado inspectors will look for a state phytosanitary certificate stating the plants meet the quarantine requirements or a copy of a compliance agreement.

More information about the Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan and the Colorado quarantine may be found on the National Plant Board website at www.nationalplantboard.org/. Please contact our office at (785) 862-2180 if you have additional questions about moving plants to Colorado.

Hydrilla confirmed in Kansas

Jeff Vogel, Program Manager

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) is a federal noxious



Hydrilla photo provided by University of Florida, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants.

weed and considered one of the worst invasive aquatic weeds in the United States. Hydrilla's small leaves are strap-like and pointed. They grow in whorls of four to eight around the stem. The leaf margins are distinctly saw-toothed and often have one or more sharp teeth along the length of the leaf mid-rib. Hydrilla can be easily distinguished from two common look-alikes, Egeria and Elodea, by confirming the presence of underground tubers.

Currently, the Kansas Department of Agriculture quarantines hydrilla in our Federal Noxious Weed Quarantine enacted in 2005 and is part of our current Invasive Weed Watch List. In 2008, Hydrilla was confirmed in a small park pond in the Kansas City

suburb of Olathe. After the initial discovery, KDA, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the City of Olathe met to discuss a management plan. The management plan outlined a strategy to monitor and control the established population with integrated methods, and to survey for new infestations downstream. During 2009, the pond was treated and surveys determined the hydrilla had not spread downstream.

Kansans need to know to never dispose of aquatic plants, fish, or other species by dumping them in a local pond. Several piles of small loose gravel from aquarium dumps were discovered after the pond was initially inspected, and that may have been how the hydrilla was introduced. Dumping aquariums provides a pathway that only further spreads aquatic invasive species and it is a violation KDWP regulations.

Kansans also need to make sure that any boat or equipment used in an infested waterway is clean of all invasive species before it is transported away from that water body.

Industry needs to be aware of contaminants in aquatic plant shipments. Before you accept a shipment, make sure there are no aquatic species present that are federal noxious weeds.

For your reference, a list of the aquatic Federal Noxious Weeds is listed below. If you do come in contact with one of the aquatic species below, whether in the wild or in containment, please call us at (785) 862-2180.

Aquatic/Wetland Federal Noxious Weeds

- *Azolla pinnata* R. Brown (mosquito fern, water velvet)
- *Caulerpa taxifolia* (Vahl) C. Agardh, Mediterranean strain (killer algae)
- *Eichornia azurea* (Swartz) Kunth (anchored waterhyacinth, rooted waterhyacinth)
- *Hydrilla verticillata* (Linnaeus f.) Royle (hydrilla)



Water Hyacinth

- *Hygrophila polysperma* T. Anderson (Miramar weed)
- *Ipomoea aquatica* Forsskal (water-spinach, swamp morning-glory)
- *Lagarosiphon major* (Ridley) Moss
- *Limnophila sessiliflora* (Vahl) Blume (ambulia)
- *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (Cav.) Blake (broadleaf paper bark tree).
- *Monochoria hastata* (Linnaeus) Solms-Laubach
- *Monochoria vaginalis* (Burman f.) C. Presl
- *Ottelia alismoides* (L.) Pers.
- *Sagittaria sagittifolia* Linnaeus (arrowhead)
- *Salvinia auriculata* Aublet (giant salvinia)
- *Salvinia biloba* Raddi (giant salvinia)
- *Salvinia herzogii* de la Sota (giant salvinia)
- *Salvinia molesta* D.S. Mitchell (giant salvinia)
- *Solanum tampicense* Dunal (wetland nightshade)
- *Sparganium erectum* Linnaeus (exotic bur-reed)



Giant Salvinia



Azolla pinnata

Live plant dealer inspections

All persons or businesses in Kansas that sell plants, landscape, or transport live plants, are required to obtain a live plant dealer license. The license fee increased January 31, 2010, to \$65 for a business with \$10,000 or more in retail sales. If the business has less than \$10,000 in retail sales, they still must maintain a current live plant dealer license and the cost is \$5.

The additional \$5 is to replenish the emergency pest fund that has been used recently for pine wilt and hydrilla control.

Plant inspections are conducted at grower locations to facilitate plant shipments to other states when it is requested. Random verification inspections are also done to check live plant dealers for compliance with Kansas pest-freedom standards.

Retired Staff

Bill Scott, program manager for the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Weed Control program retired in March.



Scott worked for KDA for 37 years. He holds a B.S. in agriculture from KSU. He was the district weed specialist for 15 years, the state weed specialist for 18 years and Plant Protection and Weed

Control program manager for four years. He also is a past president of the North America Weed Management Association.

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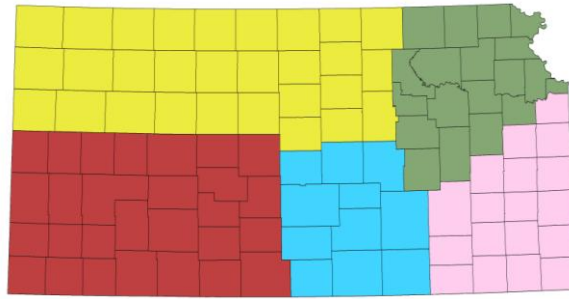
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